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Rev. George Renneker, S.M., 50th Anniversary as a Marianist Priest

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DAYTON, Ohio, July 30, 1969 --- Rev. George Renneker, S.M., who joined the Society of Mary August 28, 1905, is a rather quiet, shy man who would prefer to see his 50th anniversary as a Marianist priest this Sunday, August 3, pass quietly by -- only in contemplation with his "Heavenly Father."

However his religious contemporaries, many of whom have been his pupils over the years, have prevailed upon the former Cincinnati to celebrate the 10 A.M. Mass Sunday in the University of Dayton's Immaculate Conception chapel so that they and his many Dayton area friends may share this joyous occasion with him.

Father Renneker, now director of the religious community at the Cincinnati Provincial on Ridgeway Avenue, Dayton, has agreed, providing any other celebration be omitted.

This kindly, thoughtful priest, who also will enjoy his 80th birthday on Wednesday, August 6, has been a part of Dayton for most of the last 64 years as pupil, religious brother, teacher, priest, college administrator, University President and religious director.

In that time, except for four years when he studied for the priesthood in Fribourg, Switzerland, Father Renneker was instrumental in the building of the present Mary Help Christian Church in Fairborn and the physical and academic growth of the University of Dayton, whose president he was from 1944 to 1953.

It was during his time as UD President that he made his most significant contribution to the Dayton area. His administration during World War II and for the eight years after the world conflict made provisions for the student growth from 900 in 1944 to 3800 when he stepped down in 1953. Besides, the improvements he made in the academic growth of the University he personally led the way for the purchase of World War II barracks as temporary headquarters for classrooms, laboratories, offices and recreational facilities. He saw to the construction of the Mechanical Engineering Building, the ROTC building and Founder's Hall, men's dormitory.

In his 43 years of service to the University, Father Renneker served as a professor of history and classical languages, registrar, dean of the University, vice president and president. He stepped down in 1953 as president and became superior of Mt. St. John's, now the University's East Campus. He was assigned to the Provincialate in 1959.

He also holds an honorary degree of doctor of education from his alma mater in 1943 and is generally considered the administrator who successfully sought academic accreditation for the University from the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools in the early 1920's.